Plan to extend Doordarshan Programmes to the neighbouring countries

3237. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry in consultation with the department of telecommunications has recently worked out plans to extend Doordarshan Programmes to the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the progress made by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Doordarshan programmes are not popular in comparison to the programmes of BBC, CNN, STAR-TV from other countries; and

(d) if so, steps Government propose to take to produce effective and popular programmes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir. However, extension of Doordarshan programmes for covering larger areas within India through Satellite to have spill-over in neighbouring countries where such programmes could be received in television by appropriate dish-antenna.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. There is no discernible evidence to this effect.

(d) Constant efforts continue to be made to upgrade the technology and to bring about qualitative improvement in the content and format of Doordarshan programmes so as to sustain the interest of viewers.

Introduction of comprehensive Social Security Legislation

3238. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Business and Political Observer of 7th October, 1991 regarding introduction of comprehensive Social Security Legislation; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been suggested that there should be a comprehensive social security legislation to replace the ESI, EPF and Payment of Gratuity Acts. Also, it has been recommended that the simplified labour laws for the tiny section may be extended to the entire SSI Section.

Response to strike call by leftist unions and the workers employed in sick units

3239. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the preliminary estimate about the response to the strike call by leftist unions on 29th November, 1991 indicating the number of workers who went on strike and their respective industries and states;

(b) what is the number of workers employed in 50 public undertakings marked sick;

(c) what is the estimated surplus workers out of all the workers presently employed in sick industries; and

(d) what is the procedure evolved for reviving or closing sick industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) There was partial strike in some sectors of industry such as Banking, Insurance, Air Transport and Coal in response to a call for industrial strike given by certain central trade union organisations. The supply of essential commodities was, however, maintained. In a few States, commercial services and transport